

Shuji Hinuma, *et al.*
U.S.S.N. 09/207,168

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-19, and 21-37 are pending in the application. Claims 9-17, 19, 21-23, 25-34 and 36 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1-7, 18, 24, 35, and 37 will be pending in the application upon entry of the claim amendments presented herein.

Claims 9-17, 19, 21-23, and 25-34 are withdrawn from consideration as drawn to non-elected subject matter. In view of the finality of the Office Action, claims 9-17, 19, 21-23, and 25-34 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants hereby reserve the right to pursue the non-elected subject matter of the cancelled claims in one or more divisional patent applications.

Claim Objections

Claim 36 is objected to as being a substantial duplicate of claim 35. Claim 36 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby obviating the objection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank Examiner Romeo for the indication that claims 1-7, 18, 24, 35, and 37 are allowable.

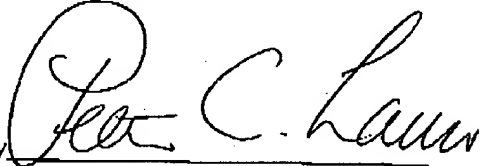
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CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the above amendments may be properly entered at this time, *i.e.*, after final rejection, pursuant to 37 CFR §1.116, because the cancellation of the claims does not require a new search or raise any new issues, and puts the application in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments at this time and allowance of the application with 1-7, 18, 24, 35, and 37. If there are any remaining issues, Applicants urge the Examiner to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative at the number below. Applicants thank the Examiner in advance for this courtesy.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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